

Message Text

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S/S:MR. SHANKLE

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102122

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREECE/NATO RELATIONS - AD HOC GROUP MEETING AND

-- TROOP COMMITMENT

REFS: (A) USNATO 2400, DTG 252000Z APR 77

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(B) ATHENS 3577, DTG 201451Z APR 77

(C) ATHENS 3925, DTG 291036Z APR 77

(D) STATE 81275, DTG 120034Z APR 77

(E) STATE 91869, DTG230017Z APR 77

(F) USNATO 788, DTG 131730Z FEB 76

(G) USNATO 1901, DTG 011800Z APR 77

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT TURKISH STATEMENT DESCRIBED REFTEL A REQUIRES ANY BASIC CHANGE IN PRESENT GUIDANCE (REF D) FOR FIRST MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP. TURKS APPEAR TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT OF DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL ISSUES AT TECHNICAL/MILITARY LEVEL. FOR OUR PART, AS STATED IN PARA 4, REF D, WE DO NOT OBJECT TO ADDRESSING THE MORE "POLITICAL" ASPECTS OF THE GREEK PAPER, AND PROVIDING A RESPONSE TO THE GREEKS ON THESE POINTS.

2. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION SHOULD PROCEED IN MAY 5 DISCUSSION ALONG LINES OF TALKING POINTS PROVIDED PARA 4 REF D, AS AMENDED BY REFTEL E. YOU SHOULD ALSO SAY THAT WE ASSUME

AD HOC GROUP IS PROPER FORUM TO DEVELOP RESPONSE FROM DPC TO GREEKS. YOU MAY POINT OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT RESPONSE TO OCTOBER 9, 1975 GREEK STATEMENT (REFTEL F) WAS PREPARED BY AD HOC GROUP IN NAME OF DPC (RESPONSE BEGINS BY IDENTIFYING THOSE SENDING RESPONSE AS "THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONS AT PRESENT REPRESENTED ON THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE") AND THAT WE ASSUME SIMILAR PROCEDURE CAN BE USED ON THIS OCCASION. FYI. WE HOPE TO PRESERVE IN THIS FASHION THE CONCEPT THAT AD HOC GROUP DEALS WITH BROADER POLITICAL ISSUES WHILE TECHNICAL/MILITARY LEVEL GRAPPLES WITH OPERATIONAL ONES. END FYI.

3. PROCEDURALLY, WE HOPE TO AVOID A SITUATION WHERE TURKS INSIST ON DPC RESPONSE TO GREEK PAPER PRIOR TO START OF MILITARY/TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. WE WOULD HOPE TO SEE CONSIDERATION OF BOTH THE BROADER ISSUES AND THE TECHNICAL

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ONES MOVE IN TANDEM AND MISSION SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE THAT RESULT. WE FORESEE DIFFICULTIES IN FORMULATING ACCEPTABLE DPC RESPONSE THAT MEETS TURKISH REQUIREMENTS WHILE NOT UNNECESSARILY ALIENATING GREEKS. WE DO NOT WANT TECHNICAL/MILITARY TALKS HELD HOSTAGE TO THIS EXERCISE.

4. WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY APPARENT GREEK DECISION REPORTED REFTEL C TO INFORM ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS TO NATO OF GOG DECISION TO RECOMMIT TO NATO ITS NUCLEAR-CAPABLE UNITS. GREEKS HOWEVER HAVE CAVEATED THEIR INSTRUCTION TO LAGAKOS TO EFFECT THAT HE SHOULD DO THIS "IF ASKED." SINCE WE OURSELVES HAVE SO ASKED THEM (REFTEL D), THAT PRESUMABLY IS NOT WHAT GOG HAS IN MIND.

5. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS USNATO SEES PROBLEMS, WE SUGGEST MISSION AGAIN APPROACH LUNS AND PANSA (OR LATTER ALONE IF THAT WOULD BE MORE JUDICIOUS) AND REPORT RESULTS OF OUR APPROACH TO ATHENS ON CLARIFYING TROOP RECOMMITMENT DECISION, I.E., GREEK DESIRE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY "IF

ASKED." YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE BELIEVE WE HAVE GONE AS FAR AS WE CAN BILATERALLY AND LUNS AND PANSAS SHOULD NOW CONSIDER HOW BEST TO PROCEED. THEY MAY WANT TO TAKE THIS UP WITH LAGAKOS. OUR OWN FEELING IS THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THEM TO BROACH THE REQUEST TO THE GREEKS PRIVATELY AND THEN REPORT TO THE AD HOC GROUP RATHER THAN HAVING AD HOC GROUP ASK GREEKS. HOWEVER, WE DEFER TO LUNS AND PANSAS ON THIS. WHILE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GET GREEK RECOMMITMENT DECISION ON RECORD TO ALLIES FOR MAY 5 MEETING, HOPEFULLY IT CAN BE INTRODUCED INTO AD HOC GROUP DELIBERATIONS SOON THEREAFTER.

6. MISSION SHOULD ALSO CONVEY TO LUNS GIST OF PARA 9 REFTEL D TO EFFECT THAT WHILE WE DID MAKE BILATERAL APPROACH ON GREEK RECOMMITMENT AS LUNS DESIRED (REFTEL G), IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A BILATERAL MATTER. FYI - WE DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POINTS IN PARA 9
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REFTEL D TO LUNS DURING HIS BUSY WASHINGTON SCHEDULE.
END FYI.

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Message Attributes

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